

PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for commutating at least one phase of an electric motor, in which a commutation angle of the at least one phase or of each phase is continuously varied as a function of a rotary frequency of an electromagnetic energizing field of the electric motor and/or of an adjustable variable for the drive power,

wherein a full cycle of the energizing field is divided into a number of zones and the at least one phase or each phase is commutated in accordance with a control pattern stored depending on these zones with an angular extent of at least two zones being varied for setting the commutation angle.

2. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the full cycle is divided into alternating consecutive zones of a first group and zones of a second group, with zones of the same group each featuring the same angular extent.

3. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the at least one phase or each phase is activated via an odd number of consecutive zones.

4. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the commutation angle is varied between a minimum value corresponding to a low speed and/or power and maximum value corresponding to a high speed and/or power.

5. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the characteristic variable for the power (P) included for adjusting the commutation angle is derived on the basis of the rotary frequency and an associated required value.

6. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein , the phase at least one or each phase is activated pulse-width modulated depending on the rotary frequency of the energizing field and/or the adjustable variable.

7. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein , in a low-performance range identified by a low value of the rotary frequency or adjustable variable with a constant commutation angle the phase or each phase is activated pulse-width modulated and in a mid performance range identified by a high value of the rotary frequency or adjustable variable the commutation angle is varied.

8. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the phase or each phase is activated in a unipolar manner.

9. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the phase or each phase is activated in a bipolar manner.

10. (Previously Presented) A device for commutating at least one phase of an electric motor, with a converter and a control unit for the converter, the control unit being operable to execute the method in accordance with claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with Claim 10, further comprising a sensor which determines the orientation and/or the rotary frequency of the energizing field feeds it to the control unit as an input variable.